



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 19, 2016

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight federal legislation or activities affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature.

Note: to get the most from this report, be sure to open the [links](#) throughout this issue for the latest news and information. Thank you for your interest!

52nd Legislature, 2nd Regular Session

The session is moving along quickly; more than 984 actions were filed this week. Four bills have passed; four have been signed. Bills passed and signed this week include SB1428: PSPRS modifications, SB1429: public retirement systems; special election, and SB1525: JTED restoration & reforms. The Governor's press release related to the signing of the pension reform plan is provided [HERE](#) and SB1525 is provided [HERE](#).

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging tracks legislation that has the potential to impact older Arizonans. Those bills can be found on the web report provided in the following link. **FULL List** click [HERE](#) (Be sure to click on the bill number for more information including Versions, Amendments, Proposed Amendments, Votes, Fact Sheets and more.)

Tracking List Highlights

SB1196: silver alert; Alzheimer's disease – includes Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder as a condition to issue a Silver Alert. Recent action: 2/18 passed Senate 29-0; ready for House. Fact sheet [HERE](#)

SB1166 service animals; certification; registration; identification - modifies permissions, requirements and penalties regarding service animals. Recent action: 2/16

from Senate Rules Committee with a technical amendment. Fact sheet (2/8) [HERE](#)

SB1363: insurance coverage; telemedicine - effective July 1, 2017, expands existing insurance coverage requirements for health care services provided through telemedicine to apply to services received in this state, rather than in a rural region of this state. Recent action: 2/18 passed Senate 29-0; ready for House. Senate engrossed version [HERE](#)

SB1375: telephone solicitations - expands the prohibition on telephone solicitation to include all telephone numbers. Recent action: 2/18 passed Senate 29-0; ready for House. Senate engrossed version [HERE](#)

SB1441: long-term insurance; rates; premium*Strike everything amendment to SB1441 relating to premiums; rates; long-term care insurance** - makes various changes to Arizona's long-term care insurance laws relating to premium increases by insurers. Recent action: 2/18 from Senate Financial Institutions Committee [amended](#). Hearing: 2/22 at 1:00 pm in Senate Rules Committee, Senate Caucus Rm. 1.

SB1490: transportation funding; task force – an emergency measure that establishes the Surface Transportation Task Force (Task Force) and specifies duties and requirements of the Task Force. Recent action: 2/18 passed Senate 29-0; ready for House. Fact sheet [HERE](#)

SB1507: ALTCS; dental services - the list of services that are required to be provided by the ALTCS program contractors to ALTCS members is expanded to include dental services in an annual amount of not more than \$1,000 per member. Recent action: 2/17 referred to House Health Committee. Hearing: in Senate Appropriations Committee on 2/23 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 109.

HB2099: developmental disabilities; terminology; settings – makes adjustments to the statutes for a person with a developmental disability. Recent action: 2/16 referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee; House engrossed summary (2/8) [HERE](#).

HB2178: Az silver-haired legislature – recent action: 2/17 House Appropriations [amended](#); bill's introductory version [HERE](#).

HB2179: critical health information; emergency responders – allows a city, town or county to establish a program which provides emergency responders with critical health information about individuals who participate in the program by ordinance. Recent action: House Committee of the Whole approved with amendment #4162 and floor amendment #4413. Passed House 54-3; ready for Senate.

HB2452: cash assistance; eligibility; children – allows an eligible dependent child to receive cash assistance during the period in which the dependent child is in the legal custody of CDS and is placed in unlicensed kinship foster care with a non-parent relative. (includes grandparent). Requires DES to allow cash assistance for an otherwise eligible child who meets one of the following: a. the court has placed the child with a

non-parent relative; b. the child's parents are deceased and the child is living with a non-parent relative; c. a non-parent relative has custody of the child because the child is abandoned. Recent action: 2/18 passed House 57-0; ready for Senate.

HB2461: lifespan respite care; program termination – extends the Lifespan Respite Care Program's termination date to July 1, 2025. Recent action: 2/18 passed House 54-3; ready for Senate. House engrossed summary [HERE](#)

HB2667: dental care; treatment; volunteer care – allows a dental professional whose license or certification in this state is in good standing to donate dental care and treatment services for indigent and needy persons or person living in medically underserved areas of this state. Recent action: 2/17 from House Health Committee do pass; House summary (2/17) [HERE](#)

Be sure to open the [FULL List](#) link for continuous updates on all the bills being tracked.

NOTE:

You can watch Live Proceedings at:
http://azleg.granicus.com/Mediaplayer.php?publish_id=5

If you wish to speak, you must sign in at any of the kiosks located outside the committee rooms located on the first floor of either the House or the Senate (1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007) the first time you use the Request to Speak. After that you will be able to **sign in from home and register a position on any bill** shown on an Agenda (whether or not you wish to speak).

Arizona State Legislature ALIS Today calendar [HERE](#)

Find **House agendas** [HERE](#)

Find **Senate agendas** [HERE](#)

Schedules

[House Weekly Schedule](#)

Senate 2016 Committee Schedule List [HERE](#)

Deadlines

Senate [2016 Session Timeline](#)

[House Important Deadlines](#)

Today, (2/19) is the last day to hear Senate bills in Senate Committees and last day to hear House bills in House Committees.

Members of the House of Representatives and Senate are listed on the Arizona State Legislature website at the following links if you wish to contact them.

Members of the [House](#)

Members of the [Senate](#)

[Standing Committees](#) - this link provides you with a list of the committee members and information on any posted meeting agendas or minutes for that committee.

Summary of Action

As of day 40, 1,219 bills have been posted; four (4) have passed and been signed; 105 memorials or resolutions have been posted; two (2) have passed. Note: some of these bills may be of interest to older Arizonans and will be tracked by the Council on Aging and appear on the *Legislative Update* web report. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list **does not** represent support or opposition by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It **does** mean that the topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans.

FULL List click [HERE](#)

Note: the **FULL List** web report provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information on all of the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This list will continue to be edited and updated throughout the session. Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by *Arizona Capitol Times*.

If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving this information, encourage them to subscribe to the *Legislative Update* by sending a request to gaca@az.gov.

Fiscal News

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee/JLBC Appropriations Committees updated (2/16) presentations found [HERE](#) . Tracking Arizona's Recovery February 2016 (2/18/16) provided [HERE](#).

Share your thoughts!

If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

- **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 in Phoenix; 520-628-6580 in Tucson and in-state toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or
- **Legislators** from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature** website and looking for: [How Do I Find or Contact my Legislators?](#)

Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? Maps can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website linked [here](#).

Other resources on the www.azleg.gov website

Need to learn more about the legislative process? See [Arizona Bill](#) or [Bill to Law](#).

Find and review bill information [HERE](#).

Learn about the budget process [HERE](#).

Research the State Constitution [HERE](#).

Learn more at *Frequently Asked Questions* linked [HERE](#).

FEDERAL OVERVIEW

UPDATES

H.R.677

American Heroes COLA Act of 2015

Introduced on 2/3/2015 by Representative Ralph Lee Abraham (LA-5)

Requires that, whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase by the same percentage the amounts payable as veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled adult children, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

On 2/10/2016, received in the Senate and read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.3700

Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act of 2015

Introduced on 10/7/2015 by Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-3)

To provide housing opportunities in the United States through modernization of various housing programs, and for other purposes.

This bill amends the United States Housing Act of 1937 to:

- authorize a public housing agency (PHA) to make section 8 low-income rental assistance (voucher) payments to a dwelling unit after an inspection reveals non-life-threatening conditions, but suspend the payments after 30 days if the conditions are not corrected; and
- prescribe further requirements for enforcement of housing quality standards.

The bill also revises requirements to vary the frequency of otherwise annual reviews of family income for public housing and section 8 programs, depending on certain decreases or increases in annual adjusted income.

Text [HERE](#)

2/3/2016 received in the Senate and read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R.3016

Veterans Employment, Education, and Healthcare Improvement Act

Introduced on 7/9/2015 by Representative Brad R. Wenstrup (OH-2)

VA Provider Equity Act - the bill includes podiatrists within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) definition of physician, and increases their pay grade to match other VA physician compensation.

On 2/10/2016, received in the Senate and read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

S.849

Advancing Research for Neurological Diseases Act of 2015

Introduced on 3/24/2015 by Senator Johnny Isakson (GA)

Amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to: (1) enhance and expand infrastructure and activities to track the epidemiology of neurological diseases, including multiple sclerosis and Parkinson's disease, and (2) incorporate information obtained through those activities into a National Neurological Diseases Surveillance System. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to ensure that the System facilitates further research on neurological diseases.

Requires HHS to provide for the collection and storage of information on neurological diseases, including the incidence, prevalence, and other information, to the extent practicable.

Requires HHS to: (1) make information and analysis in the System available to federal agencies and to the public, including researchers; and (2) ensure that privacy and security protections applicable to the System are at least as stringent as the protections under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

On 2/9/2016, Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

Other legislation

H.R.4569

To amend the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PAMA) to extend and expand the Medicaid community mental health services demonstration program.

Introduced on 2/12/2016 by Representative Doris O. Matsui (CA-6)

Text [HERE](#)

On 2/12/2016, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.4567

Expand Excellence in Mental Health Act of 2016

Introduced on 2/12/2016 by Representative Leonard Lance (NJ-7)

To increase the number of States that may conduct Medicaid demonstration programs to improve access to community mental health services.

On 2/12/2016, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Related bill: [S.2525](#)

H.R.4553

CARE Act of 2016

Introduced on 2/12/2016 by Representative Gregg Harper (MS-3)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify reasonable costs for critical access hospital payments under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

On 2/12/2016 referred to the House Energy and Commerce.

H.R.4551

Keeping our Promise to Seniors Act

Introduced on 2/12/2016 by Representative David Jolly (FL-13)

To require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Older Americans to compute cost-of-living increases for monthly insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

On 2/12/2016 referred to House Education and the Workforce.

H.R.4546

Safeguarding Social Security Numbers Act of 2016

Introduced on 2/11/2016 by Representative Dennis A. Ross (FL-15)

To require the Commissioner of Social Security to issue uniform standards for the method for truncation of Social Security account numbers in order to protect such numbers from being used in the perpetration of fraud or identity theft and to provide for

a prohibition on the display to the general public on the Internet of Social Security account numbers by State and local governments and private entities, and for other purposes.

On 2/11/2016, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.4538

SeniorSafe Act of 2016

Introduced on 2/11/2016 by Representative Kyrsten Sinema (AZ-9)

To provide immunity from suit for certain individuals who disclose potential examples of financial exploitation of senior citizens, and for other purposes.

Text [HERE](#)

On 2/11/2016 referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R.4499

PROP Act of 2016

Introduced on 2/9/2016 by Representative Alexander Mooney (WV-2)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove consideration of certain pain-related issues from calculations under the Medicare hospital value-based purchasing program, and for other purposes.

On 2/9/2016, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

S.2493

A bill to expand eligibility for hospital care and medical services under section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to include veterans who are age 75 or older, and for other purposes.

Introduced on 2/3/2016 by Senator Bill Cassidy (LA)

The bill amends the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to extend hospital and medical services under the Veterans Choice Program to veterans who are 75 years or older.

2/3/2015 read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Share your opinions with members of Congress!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your Representatives or Senators by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

You can contact the White House at this [link](#).

ALSO: A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

NEWS& RESOURCES

From **Kaiser Health News**

KHN's Aging coverage at: <http://khn.org/topics/aging/>.

From the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities/NASUAD**

Friday Updates, February 19, 2016

Strengthening Low-Income Older Adults & Caregivers

Justice in Aging, with the support of the Albert and Elaine Borchard Center on Law and Aging, released a new paper, *Advocacy Starts at Home: Strengthening Low-Income Older Adults and Caregivers*. The paper's structure introduces Margaret and her story of being a family caregiver, discusses the problems that result from the strain of poverty on low-income family caregivers and then offers solutions to help support older adults and their caregivers. Accompanying the new paper is a video displaying the challenges that caregivers face in helping their loved ones age at home.

[Click here](#) to access the publication.

[Click here](#) to access the video.

Initial Recommendations to Improve the Financing of Long-Term Care

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC), with funding from the SCAN Foundation,

published a report offering recommendations to improve the financing of long-term care. The BPC published another report in April 2014 that examined the challenges in financing and delivery. This report is a follow up of those findings that offers recommendations to improve these issues. Included in the report are the challenges of financing long-term care, recommendations to address the needs of at-risk populations, improving the affordability and availability of private LTCI, expanding options at home and in the community for older Americans and people with disabilities, improving access to affordable long-term services and supports (LTSS) for working Americans with disabilities, and addressing the needs of Americans with significant LTSS needs.

[Click here](#) to access the publication.

(direct link here: <http://www.nasuad.org/sites/nasuad/files/BPC-Health-Long-Term-Care.pdf>)

From the **National Council on Aging/NCOA**

February 22 – 27 is America Saves Week

NCOA Savvy Saving Seniors toolkits [HERE](#)

NCOA outline of Administration budget [HERE](#) and NCOA funding table [HERE](#)

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Alzheimer's website: <http://www.alzheimers.gov/>

National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease updated information can be found at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>.

From the **Center on Aging & Work at Boston College**

“But your mother lives 1200 miles away!” Using flexibility and breaks to support long-distance working caregivers [HERE](#)

PHI (Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute) article regarding proposed legislation in Iowa requires competency testing for dementia care [HERE](#).

INFORMATION& RESOURCES:

AZHHA Healthiest State Event Series, the Arizona Healthcare Innovation Forum,
April 21, 2016, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm, Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 N. 25th
Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85021

More information [HERE](#)

In case you missed it last time...

Family Caregiver Day at the Capitol

February 25, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Arizona Capitol Museum, 1700 W. Washington Street, Phoenix AZ

Must register by February 23, 2016 online at
<http://azfamilycaregiverday.eventbrite.com> or email:
AZCaregiverCoalition@gmail.com

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging/AZ4A 2016 Aging Summit

May 19-20, 2016, High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff
AZ

More information and register online [HERE](#)

If you're interested

Past issues of the *Legislative Updates* are linked on the Council website at:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an **educational**
or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description
and a link or pdf document to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of
interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including

fundraising or marketing materials.

Enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging



If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: gaca@az.gov and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
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